

that an area is blighted when really it is not. The City Council will have to do the same thing. The Mayor will be put in a position of trucking himself down here and telling you that downtown Omaha is blighted. I want to stop putting our business people in these undignified positions. I don't want them to have to lie. I don't want them to have to wrench words out of their ordinary meanings to have them say that which is not so. There will be no harm done to anybody if you strike this word "blighted". Those who currently get the money will continue to get it. Those who cannot get it will still not be able to get it. So what difference can it make or is this the type of situation where like during slavery times Patrick Henry said, "I hate slavery. It is degrading submission on the side of one and degrading oppression on the side of the other and our children see it and learn all the worst things. However, I must keep my slaves because it is too inconvenient to live without them." That is the way moral dilemmas are resolved in this country. You state the problem and you acknowledge that it is bad but you don't do anything to correct it so you erect an appearance of having dealt with it. That is all this word "blighted" in the statute does. It gives the appearance that a certain standard must be met before this money can be made available but that is not true. That is not true at all. But I can see liberal Lincoln Senators pleading for downtown Lincoln and putting it on the level with the blighted, truly blighted, areas that I represent. I say hogwash and Bull Durham. That is as far as I can go but sometimes I have the same emotions as ordinary mortals but I can't use the same type of language. So I am asking that you adopt this amendment because I am offering it in all seriousness and I think it will just bring honesty and straightforward dealing into the statute.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I don't know how to say this. Senator Chambers is either...was not thinking about the drafting of the bill or is very sly, whichever the case may be, but by striking the word "blighted" in the Newell amendment, what you do then is you say you cannot have retail or any of the other functions in a blighted substandard area because substandard has already been stricken and now blighted will be stricken. So the word, instead of saying we open it up for everything or anything really will end up being we exclude everything and anything even in blighted substandard areas and presently there are a number of projects on the boards that would be eliminated if the word is stricken. So if Senator Chambers is really offering to open it up and let anything